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ARNOLD & PORTER



March 19, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/976,054

Filed: October 15, 2001

Title: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with the
Cytokinin Pathway**

Inventors: Nordine CHEIKH *et al.*

A&P Ref. No.: 16517.256

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO):

1. Amendment and Response; and
2. Return postcard.

Please stamp the postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

Applicants request that the \$84.00 fee for additional claims be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing docket number 16517.256.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any additional fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 16517.256. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Logue Prutz (Reg. No. 47,755)
David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)

Attachments

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Nordine CHEIKH et al.

Appln. No.: 09/976,054

Filed: October 15, 2001

Title: *Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other
Molecules Associated with the
Cytokinin Pathway*

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Mary K. ZEMAN

Atty. Docket: 16517.256/38-21(15094)C

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 19, 2002 (Paper Number 7)
("Office Action"), Applicants submit the following amendment and remarks:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please **delete** the paragraph spanning page 1, line 4 through page 2, line 5 under
the heading "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" and **replace** it
with the following paragraph.

31
This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 as a continuation-in-part of
pending application No. 09/199,129 filed November 24, 1998; as a continuation-in-part
of application No. 09/210,297 filed December 08, 1998 (now abandoned); and as a
continuation of application No. 09/227,586 filed January 08, 1999 (now abandoned); and
claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Applications No. 60/067,000
filed November 24, 1997; No. 60/069,472 filed December 9, 1997; No. 60/071,064 filed
January 9, 1998; No. 60/074,201 filed February 10, 1998; No. 60/074,281 filed February
10, 1998; No. 60/074,567 filed February 12, 1998; No. 60/074,565 filed February 12,

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